

Dearest;

Whew! I just got thru our six mile hike and am now goofing off at the Service Club to recuperate. It wasn't safe staying around the ~~Service Club~~ Barracks because they were putting the fellows to work cleaning rifles. The hike wasn't bad except that we walked so slow that it was more tiring than if we'd gone fast.

I got into Battle Creek at about 3:00 o'clock. The train was almost on time. I was really surprised. I was in bed by 3:30 and so got 2 1/2 hours sleep. I don't feel too badly tho because I slept all the way in on the train.

It's a horrible day out but it doesn't matter. I'd just as soon have it like this and stay inside somewhere rather than go out marching or doing something equally foolish.

Something is in the air. I don't know just what it is, but tomorrow all A.S.T.

men are to assemble in one of the post theaters for some reason or others, maybe this is it at last. Even the fellows who've been assigned to units have to be there. That means Mac and the other boys in PWP Companies. I'd like to know what the story is but nobody seems to know.

The field packs we have to roll and wear during the ~~the~~ hikes are awfully clumsy things to carry around. They never seem to be quite comfortable, they're either too high or too low. I had to clean my carbine after the hike. It isn't much work tho. I'm glad I carried that. All non-coms carry carbines, which weigh only five pounds while the others carry Springfield rifles which weigh almost ten pounds. It makes a lot of difference.

You must be dead tired today. I know you certainly looked it last nite. I'll admit I wasn't exactly a bundle of boundless energy myself. We must've been a sad sight.

I hope your mother and father have just about completed all the painting around the house. It sure smells of paint now. It's fun tho, you never know what color you'll find a room. One minute you go into it and it is cream, when you go in a couple minutes later it's pink, then red and so on. You could run a lottery on the colors, betting what color the rooms will be next.

I doubt if we'll go to the show here tonite. Betty Gable is playing. She is one of my pet dislikes. She looks awfully cheap. The picture is "Pin Up Girl". We might go if we get desperate enough trying to find something to do but I doubt if things will get that bad - they can't.

We've got back on a cafeteria line at the mess hall. I'm fed of that because that business of fighting for food was very annoying. I hope we keep this system from now on.

4.

I'll close now and head back for
the barracks to get ready to eat. Goodbye
Darling. I'll see you soon. Thursday-
I hope.

All My Love & Kisses

Freddie